



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

Contact: Kevin Kelly

Phone: (573) 751-9300

Governor Office Building, Suite 900

FY-03-139

PSC SETS HEARING SCHEDULE IN TELEPHONE COMPETITION CASE

Jefferson City (April 2, 2003)---The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold hearings in mid-July in a case established to investigate the state of telephone competition in the exchanges of Sprint Missouri, Inc.

Hearings, to be held in the Commission's hearing room in the Governor Office Building (200 Madison Street, Jefferson City), are scheduled to begin at 8:30 am on July 14, 2003. These hearings will continue through July 18, 2003, if necessary.

These hearings will be held in a building (Governor Office Building) that meets accessibility standards required by the Americans With Disabilities Act. Any person needing additional accommodations to participate in this hearing may call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or 1-800-829-7541 (TDD) before the hearing.

Under Missouri law, the Commission is to review the state of competition within five years of the beginning of basic local telephone competition. On February 10, 2003, the PSC Staff filed a request with the Commission to establish a case to investigate the state of competition in Sprint Missouri, Inc.'s exchanges.

ExOp of Missouri, Inc. was authorized to provide basic local telephone service in a Sprint Missouri, Inc. exchange on December 15, 1998. To be authorized to provide basic local telephone service, a provider must have been granted a certificate to provide such service from the Public Service Commission; it must have an interconnection agreement with Sprint Missouri, Inc. approved by the Commission; and the provider must have on file and approved by the Commission, a tariff which describes their rates and services.

Because of basic local telephone competition in its service territory, Sprint Missouri, Inc. is currently under price cap regulation. Determining whether effective competition exists in Sprint Missouri, Inc.'s exchanges could affect the Company's price cap status. If effective competition is found to exist, Sprint Missouri, Inc. could have greater flexibility to adjust its rates for some or all of its services in some or all of its exchanges.

---0---